

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1780

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO ARE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV ISREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0050

E.O 11652 : GDS

TAGS : OREP (CHARLES PERCY)

SUBJECT : CODEL PERCY; MEETING WITH AMIR AND PRIME MINISTER

1. FOLLOWING IS UNCLEARED SUMMARY SENATOR PERCY'S ONE HOUR JANUARY 11 MEETING WITH AMIR OF BAHRAIN, WITH PRIME MINISTER PRESENT IN LATTER HALF. SENATOR HAS ASKED TO SEE THIS REPORT AT APPROPRIATE POINT IN ITINERARY AND HAS ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO HIS WASHINGTON OFFICE.?

2. U.S. ROLE IN BAHRAIN. SAKATMT EXPRESSED RPMS. AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF LONG-STANDING BAHRAINI HOSPITALITY TO AMERICAN, NOT ONLY U.S. NAVY PERSONNEL BUT ALSO GROWING AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. AMIR STRESSED IMPORTANCE BAHRAIN ATTACHES TO STRONG RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND DESIRE TO SEE RELATIONS EXPAND, NOTING BAHRAIN WANTS ARAB WORLD TO KNOW IT IS CLOSE TO U.S.. AMIR/PM NOTED IMPORTANCE BAHRAIN ATTACHES TO BEST POSSIBLE US-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP, AND GOB DESIRE TO SEE CONTINUING U.S. SUPPORT FOR SAUDI ARABIA -- AND BAHRAIN. IN RESPONSE SENATOR'S QUESTION, PM SPOKE AT LENGTH ON TRADITIONAL AND GROWING BAHRAINI RECEPTIVITY TO U.S. BUSINESS
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INVESTMENT, ON APPRECIATIVE AWARENESS THAT USG ENCOURAGING

US-BAHRAINI ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AND ON DESIRE TO SEE FURTHER EXPANSION US-BAHRAINI BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS.

3. MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND U.S. ROLE. SENATOR PERCY ASSURED BAHRAINIS, CITING BOTH ADMINISTRATION AND SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE LEADERS, THAT U.S. UNDERSTANDS IMPORTANCE MIDDLE EAST AND IS DETERMINED AS YLGH PRIORITY TO PLAY EFFECTIVE ROLE IN SEEKING MIDDLE EAST PEACE. AMIR/PM EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR RECENT U.S. EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE, CONCERN THAT MOMENTUM IN NEGOTIATIONS SEEM TO BE SLIPPING, AND ANXIOUS CONVICTION THAT IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF PEACE MOMENTUM ESSENTIAL IN VIEW OF EXPOSED POSITION SADAT AND FAISAL AND DESIRE OF ENEMIES OF U.S. AND RIGHT-MINDED ARABS TO EXPLOIT PRESENT SITUATION. AMIR STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF TIMING IN SEEKING PEACE, SUGGESTING ONLY U.S. CAN, AND MUST, "PRESSURE" ISRAEL. AMIR EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT PALESTINIAN RIYHTS BUT CONTEPT FOR ARAFAT AND SYMPATHY FOR KING HUSSEIN. WARNED AGAINST U.S. LETTING SOVIETS INTO MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS SINCE SOVIETS WANT ONLY TO "EXPLOIT SITUATION". IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR'S QUESTIONS AMIR (BEFORE PM ARRIVEDPHJFVE OPINION, WHICH HE SAID HE COULD NOT EXPRESS "IN PRESENCE HIS OWN PEOPLE", THAT ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS JUST, WORKABLE MIDDLE EAST PEACE SOLUTION MUST INCLUDE ARAB RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM 1967 TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY/SECURITY GUARANTESS, AND INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR JERUSALEM (OR JORDANIAN CONTROL WITH FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO HOLY PLACES FOR JEWS AND OTHERS).

4. ARMS BUILDUPS -- MIDDLE EAST AND GULF. IN RESPONSE SENATOR'S QUERIES AMIR/PM DEPLORED ARAB/ISRAELI ARMS RACE AS CONTRIBUTOR TO AREA TENSIONS AND TRAGIC WAST OF RESOURCES. ANFR TOOK SWIP AT GENERAL INTERNATIONAL EMPHASIS ON ARMS AT EXPENSE HUMAN WELFARE. AMIR WORRIED THAT IRAN GETTING TOP HEAVY WITH WEAPONRY. HE AND PM SEEMED IMPRESSED BY SENATOR'S SUGGESTION THAT U.S. AGREEMENT TO IRANIAN ARMS TRANSFER TO JORDAN AND JUST ANNOUNCED US-SAUDI ARMS DEAL MIGHT BE "SIGNAL" TO ISRAEL THAT U.S. EXPECTS BOTH SIDES IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND GET ON WITH PURSUIT OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. IN RESPONSE SPECIFIC QUESTION PM SAID BAHRAIN WELCOMES INCREASED U.S. MILITARY MODERNIZATION SUPPORT FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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SAUDI ARABIA WHICH FACES DIFFICULT DEFENSE SITUATION IN NORTH (IRAQ) AND SOUTH (PDRYP A AND IS FAR FROM ACHIEVING ADEQUATE DEFENSE CAPABILITY).

5. GULF. PM NOTED BAHRAIN'S NEED FOR BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA IS OBVIOUS. AMIR EXPRESSED GREAT ADMIRATION FOR SHAH BUT CONCERN FOR WHAT WILL COME AFTER IN HEAVILY ARMED IRAN. IN RESPONSE SENATOR'S QUESTION ABOUT

GOB REACTION TO IRANIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN OMAN, PM NOTED IRAN'S LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN GULF SECURITY AND SAID OTHER KTRABS HAD SCANT JUSTIFICATION FOR DEPLORING PRESENCE IRANIAN FORCES IN OMAN, UNLESS THEY WILLING TO REPLACE THEM WITH ARAB COMBAT FORCES.

IN RESPONSE SENATOR'S QUESTION ON FUTURE FOR COOPERATION/ UNITY IN GULF PM REVIEWED 1968-71 EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH NINE STATE FEDERATION, SAYING BAHRAIN DECIDED TO OPT OUT SINCE ITSTTERESTED IN FEDERATION ON BASIS REAL UNITY OF ECONOMIC AND ADMINSTRATIVE ACTIVITIES WHILE SOME OTHER STATES,

MENTIONING QATAR, WANTED LOOSER POLICAL FRAMEWORK WHICH GOB FELT OFFERED BAHRAIN LITTLE. AMIR SAID COOPERATION IN GULF ESSENTIAL AND EFFORT TO IMPROVE IT WILL CONTINUE. PM NOTED BEST APPROACH TO COOPERATION AND PERHAPS EVENTUAL UNITY OF GULF STATES IS TO RATIONALIZE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ON COMPLEMENTARY NON-COMPETITIVE BASIS AND DEVELOP COMMON EDUCATIONAL/SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES.

6. BAHRAINI POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. SENATOR CONGRATULATED AMIR ON PROGRESS BAHRAIN HAS MADE SINCE INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. AMIR SAID HE PLEASED WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT.

7. OIL. SENATOR MADE STRONG PITCH FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN OIL MATTERS, STATING U.S. INTENDS TO HAVE FIRM POLICY REDUCING WASTE OF ENERGY RESOURCES BUT THAT PRODUCING COUNTRIES FOR THEIR PART MUST SEEK PRICE STABILITY SO THAT FINANCIAL IMPACT WESTERN SACRIFICES IN CONSUMPTION NOT BE OFFSET BY INCREASED PRICES. AMIR/PM SAID GOB WOULD FULLY SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO STABILIZE PRICES AND CUT CONSUMPTION. PM URGED IN THIS CONNECTION IMPORTANCE U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORT FOR MODERATE SAUDI POSITION.
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